(b) if so, the details of this innovative initiative; and

(c) by when this facility is going to be extended in all trains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telephone booths at the railway Stations

1967. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operators of public telephone booths running on the railway stations have been asked to stop the functioning forthwith;

(b) if so, the reason therefor and whether Government are aware that most of the booth operators are disabled persons; and

(c) whether Government would review the decision, if any in the matter and whether the physically handicapped persons are given preference to operate the booths in the railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Instructions have been issued that physically handicapped persons who are presently running Subscriber Trunk Dialling/ International Subscriber Dialling/Public Call Office booths at railway stations and whose contracts are expiring and not due for extension as per contract may be allowed to continue and their contract may be extended after expiry upto 27.4.2007 provided their working is satisfactory. As per extent instructions, 25% booths have been reserved for physically handicapped persons.

Electrification of railway stations in Punjab

1968. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government on electrification of railway stations in Punjab during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of railway stations electrified during the period; and